Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 *(currently amended).* A method of making an amine-functionalized polymer, comprising:

a) in a reaction medium, reacting a living polymer with a cyclic compound comprising at least one siloxane unit in its ring structure so as to provide an intermediate functionalized living polymer; and

b) introducing into said reaction medium an amine comprising an active hydrogen atom attached to the amino nitrogen atom of said amine and allowing said amine to chemically bond to said intermediate functionalized living polymer,

thereby providing said amine-functionalized polymer.

2 *(previously presented).* The method of claim 1 wherein said cyclic compound comprises at least three siloxane units in its ring structure.

3 *(previously presented).* The method of claim 2 wherein said ring structure of said cyclic compound consists of silicon and oxygen atoms.

4-8 *(canceled).*

9 *(previously presented).* A functionalized polymer comprising an elastomer, a terminal functional group comprising at least two different heteroatoms and, intermediate said elastomer and said functional group, at least three siloxane units.

10 *(previously presented).*The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein each silicon atom in each of said siloxane units is substituted with C_1-C_3 alkyl groups.

11-20 *(canceled).*

21 *(new)*. The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C_1-C_6 substituent.

22 *(new)*. The method of claim 2 wherein each of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C_1-C_6 substituent.

23 *(new)*. The method of claim 22 wherein said cyclic compound is hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane or octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.

24 *(new)*. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing said living polymer via anionic solution polymerization.

25 *(new)*. The method of claim 24 wherein said polymer is a substantially random interpolymer comprising vinyl aromatic and polyene mer units.

26 *(new)*. The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein said functional group comprises a primary or secondary amino group.

27 *(new)*. The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein said functional group comprises siloxane functionality.

28 *(new)*. The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein said functional group comprises a halogen atom.

29 *(new)*. The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein said functional group is a sultone.

30 *(new)*. The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein said siloxane units constitute portions of a polysiloxane radical.

31 *(new)*. The functionalized polymer of claim 30 wherein said polysiloxane is hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane or octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.

32 *(new).* The functionalized polymer of claim 9 wherein said elastomer is a substantially random interpolymer comprising vinyl aromatic and polyene mer units.

33 *(new).* The functionalized polymer of claim 32 wherein said elastomer is an interpolymer of styrene and butadiene.

34 *(new).* The functionalized polymer of claim 33 wherein said interpolymer comprises from 20 to 35% by weight mer units derived from styrene.

35 *(new).* The functionalized polymer of claim 33 wherein said interpolymer has a 1,2-microstructure of from 25 to 65%.